

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 PA-01 ISO-00 H-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 CU-02 /016 W

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P 110710Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1965

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN ENTRY VISAS

REF: STATE 261011 256945 256093

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER HAS MADE REPEATED VISIT TO MINISTRIES OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO INQUIRE ABOUT VISAS OF STEPHANIE REIT, CHERYL PATTERSON JOHNSON, ROBERT NESS, J.D. ALLRED AND NINE TEACHERS RECRUITED FROM UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

2. STEPHANIE REIT (STATE 256093). VISA NOT YET AUTHORIZED IN ABSENCE OF SUPPORTING LETTER FROM UNIVERSITY WHICH FIANCE THOMAS FODER WILL BE ATTENDING. SUGGEST FODER FOLLOW UP WITH HIS NIGERIAN SPONSOR. EMBASSY CANNOT ASSIST FURTHER.

3. ROBERT NESS (STATE 237166). CONGRESSMAN L.H. FOUNTAIN INTERESTED. ACCORDING TO NIGERIAN IMMIGRATION, AUTHORIZING CABLE WAS SENT TO NIGERIAN EMBASSY ON OCTOBER 27.

4. CHERYL PATTERSON JOHNSON (STATE 261011 AND PREVIOUS). CONGRESSMAN ABNER J. MIKVA INTERESTED. IMMIGRATION HAS LOST FILE. OPENED NEW FILE NOVEMBER 7 AND ASKED CONSULAR OFFICER TO RETURN WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, FOR STATUS REPORT. WE ARE HOPEFUL THEY WILL APPROVE.

5. J.D.A. ALLRED. (STATE 256945). IMMIGRATION PROMISES ANSWER NEXT WEEK.

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6. VISAS FOR NINE TEACHERS WHO WERE HIRED BY FMG RECRUITERS AT WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY, MADISON CAMPUS, IN JUNE WERE APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER AFTER SEVERAL EMBASSY INQUIRIES. UNIVERSITY HAD WRITTEN DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR EASUM SO DEPARTMENT MAY NOT HAVE RECORD OF THESE CASES. TYPICALLY, EMBASSY DID NOT FIND OUT ABOUT AUTHORIZATION UNTIL LAST WEEK. END UNCLASSIFIED - BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

7. EMBASSY HAS MADE POINT THAT DELAYS OF THREE AND FOUR MONTHS IN RESPONDING TO VISA APPLICATIONS IS HARDLY A REASONABLE WAY TO DO BUSINESS. BELIEVE POINT SHOULD BE REINFORCED BY SOME QSTRAIGHT TALK WITH NIGERIAN EMBASSY AND CONSULATES GENERAL IN SAN FRANCISCO AND NEW YORK. APPLICATION OF NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUSINESSMEN, TOURISTS AND STUDENTS WHO CAN AFFORD TO TRAVEL AND STUDY IN U.S. ARE DECIDED AND VISAS ISSUED WITHIN MINUTES. IT IS PERHAPS TIME NIGERIANS GAVE SOME THOUGHT TO RECIPROCITY. WE ARE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY NIGERIAN PRACTICE OF RECRUITING TEACHERS AND OTHER TECHNICAL PERSONS, SIGNING THEM TO CONTRACTS WHICH REQUIRE THEM TO FOREGO OTHER OPPORTUNITIES, THEN DELAYING VISAS.

8. EMBASSY WISHES TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, WE SIMPLY ARE NOT STAFFED TO SPEND HOURS PURSUING APPLICATIONS IN LAGOS AND BELIEVE DEPARTMENT, INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND APPLICANTS SHOULD PUT HEAT ON NIGERIAN EMBASSY. WE SEE NO REASON WHY NIGERIAN EMBASSY AND CONSULATES GENERAL SHOULD BE RELUCTANT TO FOLLOW UP ON APPLICATIONS TO WHICH NIGERIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICE IN LAGOS DOES NOT RESPOND.
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